

NEWS

From the Office of

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Museum ShakeOut Event Gets Hundreds Ready to Prepare

REDLANDS – As upwards of 5 million Southern Californians joined the largest earthquake drill in history at 10 a.m. Thursday, the San Bernardino County Museum had more than 350 students of all ages from area schools join in the “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill.

“I can’t tell you how pleased I am that we had such an enthusiastic response,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who serves as co-chairman of the Great Southern California ShakeOut campaign for San Bernardino County. “This event at the museum was a huge success, but this isn’t the end of the effort; it’s the beginning. We need to make disaster preparation part of our daily routine, just like we fasten our seatbelts without giving it much thought.”

With scores of children and adults in the museum’s Fisk Auditorium just before 10 a.m., Supervisor Mitzelfelt cited his military background in encouraging everyone to “know your enemy (the earthquake)” and to “train realistically” to be prepared. The ShakeOut scenario describes in great detail what would happen when a magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurs on the southern section of the San Andreas Fault, which has not ruptured in 328 years.

At 10 a.m., led by the museum’s Senior Curator of Geological Sciences, Kathleen Springer, the children got underneath tables and everyone else in the room got on the floor and covered their heads and necks. In other areas of the museum, with ShakeOut instructions playing on the televisions, volunteers and staff directed youths to get on the ground and cover their heads and necks. Several television crews were on hand to record the event as participants held their positions for a full two minutes, which is likely how long the shaking will last during a real earthquake of such magnitude.

The ShakeOut campaign was conducted in conjunction with Golden Guardian, a statewide disaster drill for emergency responders which began at the same time. Supervisor Mitzelfelt spent several hours at the county’s Emergency Operations Center in Rialto where the Golden Guardian exercise is being coordinated today, Friday and Monday.

“Our emergency coordinators and first responders are doing a great job. They will be ready when this inevitable disaster happens,” he said. “Now it’s up to each one of us as citizens to do our part and start putting together our own disaster kits, creating family emergency plans and securing things in our homes that could fall.”

Information on how to prepare, along with other resources such as videos, interviews and the detailed scenario itself are available at www.shakeout.org, or at Supervisor Mitzelfelt’s website, www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt.